

TANFIELD  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
For the Year 1921.

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DIPTON :  
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1922.





STANLEY,  
MAY, 1921.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to your Council my Report for the year 1921.

The present intentions of the Ministry of Health are to divide the reports of Medical Officers into two classes. The first series (under which this Report falls) are to contain only such information as is required by the Ministry. The second class are to be Survey Reports of a full and detailed character. These normally will be required at intervals of not more than 5 years.

The past year has not been prosperous owing to industrial disputes and unemployment. This is reflected in the amount paid in Poor Law Relief in the district last year ; the figure being £11,009 as compared with £753 in 1920 and £600 in 1919.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) ...	...	...	4,779
Population (1921) ...	...	...	10,570
Number of inhabited houses (1921) ...	...	2,091	
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) ...	2,131		
Rateable Value ...	...	£38,914	
Sum represented by a penny rate ...		£140	

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Births ...	Legitimate	140	132	272	
	Illegitimate	10	6	16	
		150	138	288	

Deaths ...	...	...	62	74	136
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Birth Rate (R.G.) ...	27.24	Death Rate (R.G.) ...	12.86
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Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

(a) From Sepsis ...	...	...	Nil.
(b) From other causes ...	...	...	Nil.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age per 1000 births :—

(a) Legitimate... ...	...	...	99
(b) Illegitimate ...	..	..	125
(c) Total ..	...	...	100

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... 6

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ... 4

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ... 6

### *Births.*

During the year 1921 there were registered in the district 288 births (150 males and 138 females) as compared with 360 in the previous year. This gives a birth-rate for the past year equal to 27.24 per 1000 population as against a rate of 35.77 in the previous year.



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The birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1921 was 22.4 and for the County of Durham, 30.05. The numbers of births registered in the district in the preceding 7 years were 360, 305, 254, 243, 259, 272 and 337 respectively.

The number of illegitimate births was 16 (10 males and 6 females) giving a birth-rate of 1.51 per 1000 population, and a rate of 55 per 1000 children born.

### *Deaths.*

Allowing for transferable deaths, the total deaths belonging to the district in the past year was 136 in number. This gives a death-rate equal to 12.86 per 1000 population as compared with a rate of 12.1 for the whole of England and Wales, and 13.01 for this County.

The total deaths for 1920, 1919, 1918, 1917, 1916, 1915 and 1914 were 116, 146, 151, 128, 133, 142 and 136 respectively, and the corresponding rates for these years were 11.52, 15.08, 16.19, 13.7, 14.03, 14.65 and 12.5.

### *Infantile Mortality Rate.*

29 deaths, or 21.32 per cent. of the total occurred under the age of 1 year in comparison with 32 in 1920, 37 in 1919, 28 in 1918, 23 in 1917, 33 in 1916, 36 in 1915 and 56 in 1914.

The total for last year gives an Infantile Mortality Rate equal to 100 per 1000 births registered as against rates of 89, 121, 110, 95, 127, 132 and 166 in the 7 preceding years.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 83 and for this County 109.

Included in the total deaths of infants in the past year are 10 deaths (equal to 34.48 per cent.) due to immaturity.

The following table compares the various rates for the Tanfield Urban District with those for the County of Durham per 1000 population :—

		County.	Tanfield.
Birth-rate ...	...	30.05	27.24
Death-rate ...	...	13.01	12.86
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	109	100
Zymotic Death Rate ...	...	1.23	1.60
Small Pox ...	...	nil	nil
Scarlet Fever	...	.06	nil
Diphtheria	...	.13	.09
Enteric Fever	...	.02	nil
Measles ...	...	.18	.56
Whooping Cough ...	...	.23	.38
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	.61	.56
Diarrhoea (over 2 years)	...	.10	nil
Phthisis ...	...	.97	.56
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	2.34	...	2.36
Influenza ...	...	.23	.09



The next tables gives the causes of death of residents at all ages :—

			Males.	Females.
Measles	...	...	2	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	1	3
Diphtheria	...	...	1	nil
Influenza	...	...	nil	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	3	3
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	3	2
Cancer	...	...	2	11
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	1	1
Diabetes	...	...	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	3	3
Heart Disease	...	...	5	3
Arterio Sclerosis	...	...	3	2
Bronchitis	...	...	5	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	7	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	2	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	nil	1
Diarrhoea, etc., (under 2 years)	...	...	3	3
Appendicitis	...	...	1	nil
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	nil	1
Nephritis	...	...	nil	4
Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	5	5
Violence	...	...	2	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	12	14
			—	—
Total	...	...	62	74

### *Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1921.*

(Provisional figures) Population as enumerated in 1921.

		England & Wales.	Tanfield.
Birth-rate	...	22.4	27.24
Death-rate :—All causes	...	12.1	12.86
Enteric Fever	...	.02	nil
Small Pox	...	.00	nil
Measles	...	.06	.56
Scarlet Fever	...	.03	nil
Whooping Cough	...	.12	.38
Diphtheria	...	.12	.09
Influenza	...	.23	.09
Violence	...	.44	.28
Death-rate under 1 year per 1000 births	83		100

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of Notifications of Infectious Diseases again shows a decrease. There were 109 cases reported last year as compared with 153 in 1920, 332 in 1919, 172 in 1918, 380 in 1917, 108 in 1916, 143 in 1915 and 117 in 1914.



The following table gives a summary of the cases notified and compares 1921 with the seven preceding years.

		1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914
Diphtheria	...	...	17	15	10	5	13	15	21
Erysipelas	...	...	6	13	7	16	14	9	23
Scarlet Fever	...	...	27	35	48	30	39	43	30
Enteric Fever	...	...	3	—	3	—	—	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	4	8	4	1	2	1	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	16	22	7	18	17	12	19	17
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	12	30	12	19	26	21	30	17
Measles	...	...	not notifi'ble	217	82	263	1	not notifi'ble	
German Measles	...	...	do	—	—	5	5	do	
Pneumonia	...	...	24	26	24	—	not notifiable		
Dysentery	...	...	—	4	—	—	do		
<b>Totals</b>	...	...	109	153	332	172	380	108	143
									117

The following table gives the age period, etc., of cases notified :—

Disease	Under 1 year	Age Period										Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	
		1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 years and over		
Diphtheria	...	2	2	1	1	1	5	8	1	1	—	17	17	1
Scarlet Fever	...	2	1	1	1	13	4	3	1	1	1	27	23	—
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	3	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	1	6	4	3	—	5	1	1	1	1	24	—	10
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	6	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases notifiable locally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Tuberculosis :</b>														—
Pulmonary	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	8	3	—
{ Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	—
{ Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	—	—	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	7	3	2
{ Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—
{ Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	109	43	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

### Diphtheria.

There were 17 cases of Diphtheria reported in 1921, as against 15 in the previous year. The disease was present each month excepting April, September, October and November. There was 1 death. All of the patients were removed to the Hospital.

Three specimens were sent for bacteriological examination, and all proved to be negative.



### *Erysipelas.*

6 cases were notified last year, as compared with 13 in 1920. There were no deaths from this disease.

### *Scarlet Fever.*

The total cases of Scarlet Fever reported last year—27—is less than the previous year when 35 cases were reported, and is the lowest number notified in the past 8 years. With the exception of August, the disease was present in each month, but there were no deaths.

23 patients were removed to Hospital, and 4 were isolated.

### *Enteric Fever.*

There were 3 cases reported last year, and these were removed to Hospital, where bacteriological examination gave negative results in 2 cases. There were no deaths from this disease.

### *Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*

4 cases were reported in 1921, as compared with 8 in the previous year. All cases were treated at home, and in no case was the vision impaired.

### *Puerperal Fever.*

There were no cases reported last year.

### *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*

16 cases (8 males and 8 females) were notified last year, as compared with 22 in 1923. There were 6 deaths (3 males and 3 females) as against 5 in the previous year.

11 specimens from suspects were sent for bacteriological examination, and 4 of this number proved to be positive.

### *Other Forms of Tuberculosis.*

Under this heading the number of cases notified was 12 (7 males and 5 females), as compared with 30 in the previous year.

There were 5 deaths (3 males and 2 females) as against 6 in 1920.

### *Pneumonia.*

The number of cases reported was 24, being 2 less than the previous year. With the exception of May and December, the disease was notified each month.

There were 10 deaths from all forms of Pneumonia.

## NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### *Measles.*

This disease was present more or less during the whole year, but never assumed epidemic form. There were 6 deaths as against 2 in the previous year.



### *Whooping Cough.*

Whooping Cough was fairly prevalent throughout the year, and resulted in 4 deaths.

### *Diarrhoea and Enteritis.*

Infantile Diarrhoea was prevalent in the summer months, and resulted in 6 deaths.

### *Influenza.*

Though this disease was present practically the whole year, it was of a mild type, and did not at any time assume epidemic form. There was 1 death.

## SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

### *Professional Nursing in the Home.*

The South Ward—Tanfield Urban Area—Nursing Association (in affiliation with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute of Nurses, and the Durham County Nursing Association) provides 2 trained nurses—1 General and 1 Maternity, for the purpose of visiting the sick in their own homes. All cases are attended to with the exception of Infectious Fevers which are removed to the Isolation Hospital. The financial arrangements of the Association are in charge of a local committee, and all contributions to the funds are voluntary.

The following is a summary of the work done during the past year :—

#### *General Nurse.*

Cases attended—	Surgical	...	46
	Medical	...	36
		—	82

Visits made      ...      2,667

#### *Maternity Nurse.*

Cases attended—	Midwifery	...	49
	Maternity	...	18
		—	67

Visits made      ...      1032

#### *Midwives.*

There are 2 Midwives practising in the area.



## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

### *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

The centre at Burnopfield was opened for 24 meetings, a member of County Medical Staff attending.

On the books at present are :—

Infants under 1 year	...	61
,, over 1 „	...	127
Ante-natal	..	1
	—	
		189

The total attendance for the past year were :—

Infants under 1 year	...	448
,, over 1 „	...	283
Ante-natal	...	2
	—	
		733

The average attendance was about 32.

School Clinics, Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases are in the hands of the County Authorities.

## HOSPITALS PROVIDED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The Tanfield Urban District Council forms one of the constituent authorities of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board. There are 5 Hospitals under the control of this Board—3 (one of which is situated in the Tanfield area) for the reception and treatment of cases of ordinary infectious diseases. 1 for Small Pox and 1 for Tuberculosis. The accommodation in these Hospitals has been adequate up to the present.

There are no hospitals or institutions provided in this district for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children.

The other Hospitals available for the district are :—

The Royal Victoria, and other Infirmaries, Newcastle ;  
Poor Law Hospital, Lanchester ;  
A Tuberculosis Dispensary, at Stanley, provided by the County Council.

### *Motor Ambulances.*

Infectious patients are now removed to the Isolation Hospital by Motor Ambulances. There is a motor ambulance in the area for the removal of other cases.



## LABORATORY WORK.

Under the arrangements made between the County Council and the College of Medicine, Newcastle, 14 specimens were sent for bacteriological examination from 11 Tuberculosis and 3 Diphtheria suspects. Of this number 4 of Tuberculosis were proved to be positive.

An adequate supply of Anti-toxin, and Influenza Vaccine is kept for distribution to medical practitioners.

## ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Adoptive Acts, &c., in force in your area are :—

Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890 Part 1.  
 Private Street Works' Act, 1892 ;  
 Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890. Part 4.  
 Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1907. Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5 ;  
 Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

### *Bye-Laws.*

Removal of House Refuse ;  
 Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ash-pits and Cess-pools ;  
 Nuisances ;  
 Common Lodging Houses ;  
 New Streets and Buildings ;  
 Slaughter Houses.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Your Inspector of Nuisances reports to me as follows :

### *Closet Accommodation.*

During the year, 38 Water-Closets have been provided in the district, and in addition, 10 Ash-closets and 25 movable Ash-bins.

24 Ash-pit privies have been abolished, 10 being converted into Ash-closets and 14 into Water-closets. The numbers of each type of convenience in the district are :—

Water-closets ...	...	263
Ash-closets ...	...	1752
Ash-pit privies ..	...	226
Movable Ash-bins	...	50
		—
		2291

### *Scavenging.*

This work is carried out partly by contract, and partly by direct labour with 2 motors.

The contractor was allotted 826 ash-pits, and the motors had to attend to 1314



The work has been done in quite a satisfactory manner, though the motors are probably too light for this work on the roads they have to travel.

### *Sewage.*

The new Sewage Works at Tanfield Lea are nearing completion. The catch-pit and grit chamber, the two settling tanks and septic tank, the 3 rough filters and 2 of the 3 fine filters are finished. One fine filter is yet to complete, and the sludge pit is to construct. The sewer from Allan's Square and the Aged Miners' Homes has yet to be connected to these works, which are capable of dealing with the sewage from about 250 houses.

The other sewage works are not satisfactory, but have been commented upon in previous reports.

The following table gives a summary of Notices served after inspection :—

Type of Nuisance.	Informal Notices.	Formal Notices.	Nuisances Abated.
Dwelling Houses—Foul conditions ...	1		1
Structural defects	55	8	52
Overcrowding ...	1		1
Dairies and Milkshops ...	1		1
Cowsheds ...	1		1
Slaughter Houses ...	1		1
Ashpits and Privies ...	45	12	53
Deposits of Refuse or Manure	1		1
Water Closets ...	12	2	14
Defective Yard Paving ...	6		6
House Drainage...	42	3	45
Pigsties ...	1		1
Other Nuisances...	3		1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>178</b>

### *Slaughter Houses.*

There are 6 slaughter houses in the district. Inspections proved that these were kept in a satisfactory manner, except in one case where limewashing was required and this was done immediately.

### *Disinfection.*

40 houses, bedding, etc., were fumigated after infectious diseases during the year

### *Milk Supply.*

There are 30 cow-keepers and 2 purveyors of milk in the area. The number of cows kept was practically the same as the previous year—approximately 180

No fault was found with the milking utensils with regard to cleanliness and storage. The same cannot be said of the cowsheds ; in many cases there is a want of cleanliness and in some of an old type, there is a deficiency of lighting, ventilation and good drainage.



## HOUSING.

### *New Houses.*

Under the Council Scheme, 24 houses were finished and tenanted at Tanfield Lea. Good progress is being made with the new colliery houses at Tanfield Lea.

There is still much overcrowding in the district. The sub-letting of rooms by tenants of houses helps to increase this.

### *Old Property.*

Improvements to old property have been seriously delayed owing to industrial troubles in the past year. However, alterations have been carried out at Front Street, Hobson, Syke House, Lintz Green House, and Quarry Square, Tantobie.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	24
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...	...	...	...	24

### *1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	40
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	42
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	11
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	17

### *2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	38
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### *3.—Action under Statutory Powers.*

#### *A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning &c., Act., 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—					
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ... ... ... Nil

#### *B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	55
(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied :—					
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	52
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil



C.—*Proceedings under section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	{ 1 & this was cancelled
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit						Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made	...	...	..	...	...	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

E. BENSON, D.P.H,

Medical Officer.

The Urban District Council  
Tanfield.

